Accidents of MIG Aircrafts

2541. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that between 1997 and 2000, out of 84 accidents 69 per cent involved the MIG Series and of which 38 were MIG-21 alone;

(b) whether it is also true that Indian Air Force would need MIG-21 for another 15 years as it has overwhelming numbers of its squadrons; and

(c) if so, what precautionary steps are being taken by Government to avoid the accidents of MIG-21s?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The MIG 21 aircraft was inducted in the Indian Air Force from the year 1963 to 1976. The indigenised production of MIG 21 Bis aircraft continued till 1989. Taking average life of 35 years, the majority of these aircraft have got considerable residual life left.

(c) Human Error (HE), Technical Defect (TD) and Bird Hit (BH) have been identified as the main cause of accidents by various Courts of Inquiry. Remedial measures are instituted on the basis of the recommendations of each Court of Inquiry (COI). Measures are being taken to reduce accidents under all categories, by formulation of Accident Prevention Programme, Environmental Cleanliness, Bird Hzard Control, conduct of studies on HE and TD and in interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited/Original Equipment Manufactures. Besides MIG-21 Bis variant aircraft have been planned for upgrade also.